

**Draft Summary of the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group Meeting
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)
March 24, 2003**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted a meeting for the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group on March 24, 2003 in Sacramento.

A summary of the discussion, decisions made, and action items is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript, analysis of the meeting, or to indicate agreement or disagreement with any of the items summarized, except where expressly stated. The intent is to present a summary for interested parties who could not attend the meeting. The following are attachments to this summary:

Attachment 1	Meeting Agenda
Attachment 2	Meeting Attendees
Attachment 3	Flip Chart Notes
Attachment 4	Land Ownership Structure
Attachment 5	SP-L5 Fuel Load Management Interim Report Presentation
Attachment 6	SP-L5 Fuel Load Management Background Materials
Attachment 7	Land Use Types in the Study Area
Attachment 8	Vegetation Classification

Introduction

Attendees were welcomed to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting; Mark Greenig with the consulting team participated in the meeting via teleconference. Attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations. The Work Group reviewed the desired outcomes of the meeting. The meeting agenda and list of meeting attendees are appended to this summary as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. Meeting flip chart notes are included as Attachment 3.

Action Items – February 24, 2002 Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group Meeting

A summary of the February 24, 2002 Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting is posted on the relicensing web site. The Facilitator reviewed the status of action items from that meeting as follows:

- Action Item #LU51:** DWR receive the land ownership structure and provide feedback on its accuracy.
Status: Steve Pavich with the consulting team provided a draft description of the land ownership structure in the project area to DWR for review. Carol Leong with DWR provided landownership overview text for use in SP-L1, Land Use (see Attachment 4).
- Action Item #LU52:** Receive feedback from Land Use, Land Management, and Aesthetics Work Group participants on the SP-L3 Interim Report, Comprehensive Plan Consistency Analysis).
Status: Mark Greenig with the consulting team reported he had not received any feedback on SP-L3 from the participants or other work groups. Positive feedback was received from various agencies in regards to the summary of their plans. Participants agreed to provide comments by April 21, 2003. The Facilitator explained the review and comment process used in other work groups, which entails collecting comments, and consideration of them during development of the draft final report. No re-distribution of edited drafts will occur. In addition, study plan leads will be available to discuss the comment directly with the participant.

- Action Item #LU53:** Receive DWR and RAM feedback on the KOPs to be used in SP-L4 (Aesthetics).
Status: Jim Martin, Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Resource Area Manager (RAM) for DWR has coordinated with the other RAMs on the list of proposed KOPs, and most feel that the list is adequate. Doug Rischbieter, Recreation and Socioeconomics RAM suggested deleting two proposed KOPs and confirmed that one is included in the Oroville Wildlife Area.
- Action Item #LU54:** Distribute materials to be discussed at meeting to Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group approximately one week in advance of the Work Group meeting.
Status: This is an ongoing task.

Study Implementation Update

The consultant team provided status updates on all Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics study plans, except SP-L3, for which an interim report has been submitted and is currently being reviewed by the Work Group. A brief summary of the remaining studies is presented below.

SP-L5 (Fuel Load Management)

Linda Leeman with the consulting team and the study lead for SP-L5, presented an overview of this study via a PowerPoint presentation (see Attachment 5), and distributed study background materials to the participants (see Attachment 6). The consultant team is seeking comments from the participants on areas of concern identified in the presentation and/or background materials. It was suggested that homes should be considered a potential fire origin area, as well as the Potter's Ravine trail area. A participant mentioned that historically several fires have spread from the Oroville Wildlife Area towards the City of Oroville; this is a big concern to local residents and should be recognized in this study. Linda added that there has been and will continue to be coordination with the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group study leads regarding this study.

Participants discussed the concept of "Opportunities/Constraints" map, and suggested that if developed the map should include fire hazard areas. DPR staff is particularly interested in this topic, and would like it discussed again at the next Work Group meeting in April. Although it was emphasized that this study is not intended to result in a fuel load management plan, DPR staff suggested that such a plan may need to be developed for the project area at some point in time. Jim Upholt with DWR indicated that a fuel load management plan could be a proposed resource action or PM&E measure, with this study plan used as a starting point for the development of such a plan. Fuel load reduction techniques will be included in the presentation at the next Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting. It was suggested to consider planned land uses under the local general plan to help prioritize important potential fire hazard areas. Linda noted that vegetation mapping would be used to further evaluate high hazard areas. One participant suggested that a fire history map be included in this study. This study will focus on the FERC boundary plus ¼-mile buffer; lands outside of this area will be noted but not evaluated in this study.

Roger Calloway, DPR, submitted an informal inquiry sheet to Jim Martin, DWR, on the following issues: fuel load management, cattle lease at diversion pool, and status of BLM land acquisition. Roger requested that Jim report back on subject issues during the April or May work group meeting.

SP-L1 (Land Use)

Steve Pavich with the consulting team and the study lead for SP-L1 provided an update on this study. First, he distributed a text description of the land ownership structure provided by DWR (see Attachment 4). The subsequent discussion focused on DWR's authority with respect to other landowners' and managers' actions and that these other entities terms of use are not in conflict with DWR's underlying control of the lands for the State Water Resources Development System.

This study will be integral to the development of SP-L2 (Land Management). There were concerns raised regarding cattle leases granted by DWR to private parties near the Diversion Pool, which may represent a potential land use conflict. This topic was added to the next Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group agenda, including information on the history of the leases, options to address the situation, and the value of such leases. The issue of land ownership subsequently focused on the problems with overlaying the FERC boundary and parcel database information in GIS. One participant inquired about the BLM land transfer project; an update will be provided at the next Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting.

The second component of the overview focused on land use information. The purpose of the land use information and mapping is to give FERC a general understanding of land uses in the project area. Land use information will be based on vegetation/land use mapping conducted by DWR staff. The consultant team made an initial attempt to develop land use categories based on the categories associated with the map provided by DWR (see Attachments 7 and 8). There were concerns expressed by participants that these land use categories did not appropriately capture actual land uses in the project area. In particular, "recreation" needs to be included as a land use, and could be broken down into developed and passive recreational uses. Roger Calloway suggested that vegetation was not a land use type and requested a reconsideration of the classifications. A new land use category structure will be developed and presented at the next Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting.

SP-L2 (Land Management)

Mark Greenig indicated that this study is in its early stages with the consultant team in the process of contacting various management entities including DPR. Additional information will be provided at the May Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting.

SP-L4 (Aesthetics)

Mark Greenig reported that an Interim Report representing existing conditions would be complete by the April Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting. The next step in the process is to start evaluating potential PME's in the context of aesthetic resources, namely the KOPs identified as part of this study. The KOPs have been finalized based on coordination with the other Work Groups. This study is on schedule.

Next Meeting and Next Steps

The next Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting will be:

Date: Monday, April 21, 2003
Time: 6:00 to 10:00 PM
Location: TBA

Action Items

The following list of action items identified by the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group includes a description of the action, the participant responsible for the action, and item status.

Action Item #LU55: Review fuel load management issues and provide an update to the Work Group. Present fuel load reduction techniques for discussion.

Responsible: Consultant team

Due Date: April 21, 2003

Action Item #LU56: Provide a history and status of grazing leases in the project area.

Responsible: DWR

Due Date: April21, 2003

Action Item #LU57: Provide an update on the BLM land transfer project.

Responsible: DWR

Due Date: April21, 2003

Action Item #LU58: Develop a new set of land use categories to be used in SP-L1.

Responsible: Consultant team

Due Date: April21, 2003